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amended to more clearly distinguish the cited reference. In particular, those claims now recite the use of an opening in the member in combination with actuation that changes the angle of incidence of the input light signal relative to the member. Tayebati shows the use of a hole (55) in the moving arm. However, the device is actuated by moving the arm laterally with respect to the light source, i.e., without changing the angle of incidence of the input optical signal relative to the moving arm. This difference is illustrated by comparison of Figures 1 & 2 of Tayebati with Figure 2 of this application. Hence, claim 1 is distinguished by reciting "means for moving said member so as to change the angle of incidence of the light signal relative to the member so as to selectively position said opening intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and second light transmitting elements." Claim 9 is distinguished by reciting "means for moving said member so as to change the angle of incidence of the light signal relative to the member so as to selectively position said opening intermediate a portion of the optical path between said first and second light transmitting elements." Claim 33 is distinguished by reciting "means for moving said member so as to change the angle of incidence of the light signal relative to the member so as to selectively position said opening intermediate said first and second light transmitting elements, so as to optically couple said first and second light transmitting elements." Consequently, Applicant requests that the rejections of claims 1, 9 and 33 be withdrawn. Claims 2-6, 10-15 and 34 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon claims 1, 9 and 33 and are allowable for the reasons already stated and for further distinguishing the invention, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is also requested.

The Office rejected claims 7, 8, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tayebati. These claims are either directly or indirectly dependent upon claims 1, 9 and 33

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and are allowable for the reasons already stated and for further distinguishing the invention, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is also requested.

The Office also rejected claims 3, 6, 15 and 17, and objected to claims 2, 8, 10-12 and 33 based on informalities of language such as lack of antecedent basis. The claims have been amended accordingly and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is requested.

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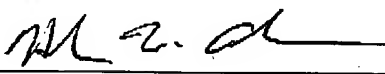
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Accordingly, allowance of this application is respectfully requested. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Holmes W. Anderson, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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